

*corrected copy of*  
Def. Doc. # 1476

Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

Extra. 15. June, 1946

Hon. YOSHIDA, Shigeru, the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
from SATO, Hisatake, the Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador  
Plenipotentiary, repatriated from Soviet Russia.

Report of the Russian notification of the commencement of hostilities  
against Japan.

1. It was announced in Soviet newspapers that both Chairman Stalin and  
Commissioner Molotov had returned to Moscow from the Potsdam Conference  
on August 5. With the view of demanding a prompt answer in relation to  
the termination of the war through the good offices of Soviet Russia,  
which I had previously offered to the Soviet Government, I asked before-  
hand for an immediate interview with Commissioner Molotov, when he had re-  
turned to Moscow. But, on August 5, when Commissioner Molotov returned,  
I asked once more for an interview with him. On August 7, he answered that  
he would meet me at eight p. m. on August 8. But, later on, he asked me  
to change the time of the interview to five p. m. to which, of course, I  
agreed.

2. On August 8, when I called on Commissioner Molotov, together with  
Secretary YUBASHI at five o'clock in the afternoon, he did not wait for  
me to broach my subject, but said immediately that he had something to  
give notice of, and read the following declaration written in Russian and  
handed it over to me.

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"Since Hitler Germany has been defeated and has surrendered Japan has become the only big power continuing to wage war. She rejected the demand as of July 26 of this year by the three countries of the United States, Britain and China in regard to the unconditional surrender of the Japanese forces, consequently the proposal by the Japanese Government, for Russian mediation in regard to the Far Eastern War has become without basis. In view of Japan's refusal of surrender, the allied powers proposed to the Soviet Government that she should participate in the war against Japan's aggression, in order to hasten the termination of the war and lessen the number of its victims, thereby contributing to the speedy restoration of general peace. In obedience to her duties to the allied powers, the Soviet Government accepted the proposal and participated in the Allied Declaration as of July 26 of this year. The Soviet Government considers this policy as the only measure to promote the establishment of peace and to save every nation from further sacrifice and distress, as well as to enable the Japanese people to avoid such danger and destruction as Germany had to endure after she had rejected the demand for unconditional surrender. From such a point of view, the Soviet Government declares that she will be at war with Japan from tomorrow namely August 9." When he finished reading the declaration, Commissioner Molotov added that Ambassador Marick as well would communicate the declaration to the Japanese Government in Tokyo.

Accordingly I expressed my regret at the decision made by the Soviet Government, pointing out that it was incomprehensible to open hostilities

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against Japan on the pretext of relieving the Japanese people of sacrifice and distress. Then I wanted to make a few questions, though I desired no repeated discussions, because it was necessary to clarify the purport of the declaration before it was communicated to the Japanese government. When I asked him if he meant by going to war with Japan on August 9, that Russia was at peace with us on August 8, but would be at war on August 9. Commissioner Molotov then wanted me to understand, not partially but fully, the declaration of the Soviet Government, and answered in the affirmative as to the time when she would go to war. Next, when I asked him how I could communicate the declaration to the Japanese Government, he answered that there was no objection to my sending telegrams to Tokyo or using code in order to communicate the above-mentioned declaration and the details of the interview. Thus the conversation came to an end, and when I took leave of him, I expressed my regret for the commencement of hostilities, and at the same time, my gratitude for the kind treatment received of the Russian Government during my term of office amounting to three years. Commissioner Molotov thanked me for my statement, adding that I should never be insulted, even though Russia on the commencement of hostilities took actions based on international law.

3. In accordance with the statement of Commissioner Molotov in the above-mentioned conversation, I handed the following telegrams to the Russian authorities at nine p. m. on August 8, requesting them (The staff of the embassy were forbidden to go out of the embassy, and so were unable to send telegrams themselves). The Soviet Government promised to send them



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immediately (on my return I found they had not arrived)

- a) A telegram reporting the reception of the proclamation of war from Commissioner Molotov, and requesting a prompt decision on a country to represent Japanese interests.
  - b) The whole text of the proclamation.
  - c) A telegram from Secretary MATSUUDAIRA to Chief of the Political Section TAKEUCHI, reporting that all the staff were in safety and had already disposed of all Business affairs.
  - d) A telegram from Telegraphic Officer NOMURA to Chief of the Telegraphic Section OHE, reporting that all the telegraphic affairs had been disposed of.
- I report the above.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Hayashi Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of five pages and entitled "Official Note, Extra Number, from Ambassador Satō returned from Moscow to Foreign Minister Yoshida, dated 15 June 1946" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,  
on this 7th day of May, 1947

Hayashi Kaoru

Witness! Urabe Katsuma

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ William E. Clarke

Tokyo, Japan

Date 14th May 1947

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號 外

昭和二十一年六月十五日

蘇聯ヨリ引揚

特命全權大使 佐 藤 尙 武

外務大臣 吉 田 茂 殿

ソ聯邦ノ對日戰艦通告ノ經緯報告ノ件

一、昭和二十年八月五日スターリン議長及モロトフ委員ボツダム會議ヨリ歸莫セル旨ソ紙ニ發表アリタル處豫テ東郷外務大臣ノ訓令ニ基キ本使ヨリソ側ニ申入レ置キタルソ側ニ依ル終戰轉旋ノ件ニ關シ速カニソ側ノ回答ヲ求メントノ考慮ヨリモロトフ委員歸莫後直チニ會見シ度キ旨前廣ニソ側ニ申入濟ナリシモ更ニ八月五日モロトフ委員歸來同日同人ニ對シ至急會見シ度キ旨申入レタル處八月七日ニ至リモロトフ委員ヨリ八日午後八時會見スベキ旨申越シタルカ其ノ後先方ヨリ右會見時間ヲ繰上ゲ午後五時ニ會見シ度キ旨變更シ來リ本使ニ於テ之ヲ諾シタリ

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二、八月八日午後五時大使油橋書記官帶同モロト  
フ委員ヲ往訪セル處同委員ハ本使ヨリノ用件  
申出ヲ待タズ早速ソ側ヨリ通告シ度キコトア  
リトテ用意セル露文ニ依リ左記宣言ヲ讀ミ上  
ゲ之ヲ本使ニ手交セリ

「ヒトラ」獨逸ノ敗北及降伏後ニ於テハ日本  
ノミカ戦争ヲ繼續スル唯一ノ大國タルニ至  
レリ三國即チ北米合衆國、英國及支那ノ日  
本軍隊ノ無條件降伏ニ歸スル本年七月二十  
六日ノ要求ハ日本ニ依リ拒否セラレタリ因  
テ極東戦争ニ歸スル日本政府ノソ聯ニ對ス  
ル調停方ノ提案ハ全ク其ノ基礎ヲ失ヒタリ  
日本ノ降伏拒否ニ鑑ミ聯合國ハソ聯政府ニ  
對スル戦争ニ參加シ以テ戦争ノ終了シ犠牲  
者ノ數ヲ減少シ且急速ニ一般的平和ノ恢復  
ニ資スベク提案セリソ聯政府ハ其ノ聯合國  
ニ對スル義務ニ遵ヒ聯合國ノ右提案ヲ受諾  
シ本年七月二十六日ノ聯合國宣言ニ參加セ  
リソ聯政府ハ斯ル同政府ノ政策カ平和ヲ促  
シ各國民ヲ此レ以上ノ犠牲ト苦難ヨリ救ヒ



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日本人ヲシテ獨逸カ其ノ無條件降伏拒否後  
管メタル危險ト破壊ヲ回避セシメ得ル唯一  
ノ手段ナリト思考ス以上ノ見地ヨリソ聯政  
府ハ明知即チ八月九日ヨリ同政府ハ日本ト  
戰爭狀態ニアルベキ旨ヲ宣言ス  
モロトフ委員ハ右宣言ヲ讀ミ終ルト共ニ尙  
宣言ハ東京ニ於テモマリク大使ヨリ日本政  
府ニ傳達スベキ旨附言セリ  
仍テ本使ハ右宣言ニ付ソ聯政府ノ執リタル  
決定ヲ遺憾トスルト共ニ日本國民ヲ犠牲ト  
苦難ヨリ救フト稱シテ日本ニ對シ開戰スル  
趣旨了解シ得ザル旨ヲ指摘シ更ニ事茲ニ至  
ツテ論議ヲ重ネントスルモノニアラザルモ  
右宣言ハ之ヲ日本政府ニ傳達スルニ先立チ  
其ノ趣旨ヲ闡明ナラシムル要アルニ依リ茲  
ニ質問スルモノナルコトヲ斷リタル上八月  
九日ヨリ日本ト戰爭狀態ニ入ルトハ八月八  
日ハ平和狀態ニシテ九日ヨリハ戰爭狀態ナ  
リトスル謂ナルベキヤトノ趣旨ヲ以テ質問  
ヲ續ケタルニ對シモロトフ委員ハソ聯政府  
ノ宣言一部分ノミナラズ全體ヲ通ジテ其ノ



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趣旨ヲ了解アリシト述ベ更ニ戦争状態ニ入ル  
時ニ關スル質問ニ付テハ御質問ノ通りナル旨  
答フル處アリタリ次デ本使ヨリ日本政府ニ對  
スル右宣言傳達ノ方法ニ付種々質問セルニ對  
シモロトフ委員ハ右宣言及會談内容傳達ノ爲  
ノ東京向發電ニハ支障ナキコト及暗號使用モ  
差支ナキコト等ヲ答ヘタリ以上會談ヲ終ヘ訣  
別ニ際シ本使ハ開戦トナリタルハ衷心遺憾ト  
スル處ナルモ過去三年間ニ亘ル在任中ノソ聯  
政府ノ待遇ヲ謝ス旨ヲ述べタルニ對シモロト  
フ委員モ亦本使ノ言葉ヲ謝シ且ツ開戦ニ依ル  
國際法上ノ措置ハソ側ニ依リ執ラルベキモ本  
使カ侮辱セララルカ如キコトハアリ得ベカラ  
ザル旨附言スル處アリタリ

三、右會見ニ於ケルモロトフ委員ノ言明ニ基キ八  
月八日午後九時左記四通ノ電報案ヲ蘇側官憲  
ニ手交シ發電方依頼シタルニ（大使館員ハ當  
時館外ニ外出方禁ゼラレ居タルヲ以テ自ラ發電  
電ニ赴クコトヲ得ザリキ）ソ側官憲ハ直ニ發  
電スベキ旨約シタリ（本使等歸朝ノ上之等電

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報ハ到着シ居ラザル次第ヲ發見セリ)

イ、モロトフ委員ヨリ開戦通告文ノ手交ヲ受

ケタル旨及速ニ利益代表國ヲ決定セラレ度

キ旨ノ電報

ロ、通告文全文(別電)

ハ、松平書記官ヨリ武内政務三課長宛ニ館員

一同無事ニシテ事務上ノ處理萬事終了ノ

旨通報セル電報

ニ、野村電信官ヨリ大江電信上ノ處分全部終

了ノ旨通報セル電報

右報告ス

以上